

No. 79.

MARCH 11, 1808.

Read the first and second time, and committed to a committee of the whole house on Monday next.

A Bill,

For the relief of Richard Bland Lee.

1 Sec. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the
3 secretary of the war department be authorized, and he is hereby
4 required by a writing signed by him, to appoint on the part of the
5 United States, within twenty days after a request for that purpose
6 shall be made to him by the said Richard Bland Lee, or his as-
7 signee, two intelligent and disinterested persons living in the coun-
8 ty of Jefferson, in the state of Virginia, as commissioners, who,
9 together with two other such persons living in the same county and
10 state, to be appointed by the said Richard Bland Lee, or his as-
11 signee, shall, within twenty days after being required by either the

12 secretary of the war department or the said Richard Bland Lee, or
 13 his assignee or agent, proceed to view the trespass alleged to have
 14 been committed by the troops and agents of the United States up-
 15 on the land aforesaid, provided the opposite party shall have ten
 16 days previous notice, in writing, of the time and place of the meet-
 17 ing of said commissioners; and then and there to hear the state-
 18 ment of each party, and to examine witnesses touching the subject
 19 matter in dispute; and the said commissioners, or a majority of
 20 them, shall thereupon determine and ascertain, not only what da-
 21 mage has been done to the land aforesaid, by the troops and agents
 22 of the United States, but also what sum of money the United States in
 23 justice ought to pay for the same, and the award of the said commis-
 24 sioners, or any three of them, made as aforesaid, to be in writing,
 25 and signed by the whole, or a majority of the said commissioners,
 26 shall be returned within twenty days after the same shall be made
 27 up, to the secretary of the war department.

1 Sec. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That, in case the said com-
 2 missioners are equally divided, then they, or a majority of them,
 3 shall appoint an umpire, whose umpirage in writing, and signed by
 4 him and two of the other commissioners, shall, in like manner, be
 5 returned to the secretary of the war department, and the amount
 6 of such award or umpirage shall be paid out of any unappropriated
 7 money in the treasury of the United States, within twenty days af-
 8 ter the said Richard Bland Lee, or his assignee or assignees, shall
 9 produce to and deposit with the secretary of war, the opinion of the

10 attorney general of the United States, certifying that the said
11 Richard Bland Lee hath a good and sufficient title, according to
12 the laws of Virginia, in and to the land mentioned in the lease to
13 the United States, free from every incumbrance made or created
14 by the said Richard Bland Lee, or those under whom he claims.

1. Sec. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That the secretary of war,
2 shall appoint a suitable person to attend the meeting of the commis-
3 sioners aforesaid as an agent on the part of the United States,
4 whose duty it shall be to make such representations to the said
5 commissioners, and to produce such evidence before them, if it
6 shall be deemed necessary by the secretary of war to produce evi-
7 dence on the part of the United States, as the nature of the case
8 may require.